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West Bridgford



ANNUAL
REPORT

of the

Medical Officer
of Health
For the Year 1937

West Bridgford Urban District Council

1937

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Vice-Chairman :
Mr. Albert Mather.

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*Mr. Ernest Brewill.

§ Chairman of Health Committee.

* Member of Health Committee.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health ... W. B. Watson, L.R.C.P.,
L.R.C.S., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector W. L. Thompson, M.R.S.I.,
A.M.I.S.E., M.S.I.A.

Engineer and Surveyor ... H. Carmichael, M.I.M. &
Cy.E., M.R.S.I.

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REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1937.

**To the Chairman and Members of the West Bridgford
Urban District Council.**

Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of the District for the year 1937.

This is my first Annual Report and I held office during only the last four months of the year.

My advent almost coincided with the coming into force of the first instalment of the new Public Health legislation, namely, the Public Health Act, 1936. The Act involves many changes and many more are foreshadowed in subsequent instalments such as the Food and Drugs Bill now before Parliament.

The year also saw the coming into force of the 1936 Housing Act which, however, was mainly consolidating. Already, changes have been made by the Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1938. These changes are mainly concerning Exchequer grants.

In August appeared a White Paper entitled "Milk Policy," setting forth the Government's views in regard to milk production. This foreshadows further monetary encouragement to producers to acquire Attested Herds and produce the higher grades of milk. In addition the vexed question of pasteurisation is referred to and legislation promised which will give Local Authorities power to apply for an Order making pasteurisation compulsory in their areas. I refer to this matter in the text of my report.

During the last quarter of the year there occurred sufficient cases of notifiable disease in West Bridgford and surrounding districts to tax the hospital accommodation. Fortunately, West Bridgford suffered comparatively little, but in the existing circumstances of hospital accommodation the town is not permitted to enjoy such good fortune without qualification, for the neighbouring authorities, which may be less fortunate, require the beds in the available Isolation Hospitals and it is extremely difficult to get accommodation when it is necessary. Let us hope that the building of the promised Joint Isolation Hospital for South Nottinghamshire may not be long delayed so that what at present is often no worse than a matter of individual inconvenience and hardship may not, in the event of an epidemic, become a serious menace to the community.

The question of providing a temporary Isolation Hospital was raised amongst the constituent authorities awaiting the provision of the new hospital, and the matter is still under consideration. The principal difficulty is one of cost, with the expenditure on the new hospital impending.

West Bridgford is at present experiencing the difficulties of absorbing into an established urban community a rural area with its own type of houses, its farms; more primitive sanitation and general contrast of conditions. These difficulties may be emphasised from time to time as new dwellings arise in the outlying parts and the owners meet conditions they had not foreseen. However, with the sewerage of Edwalton all but the undeveloped parts of the Urban District will be provided with proper drainage and already a piped water supply is available to practically all parts.

No greater difficulty arises under such circumstances than the continuance of farming on land within the Urban District. A greater measure of control may be exercised and a higher standard of order and cleanliness insisted upon and the farmer or landowner may feel that the end of the farm's existence is in sight and be unwilling to spend money on improvements. A like difficulty is experienced in the matter of housing, for the future value of the land is a dominant influence in the owner's mind when reconditioning is under consideration.

West Bridgford has many amenities which make it an attractive residential town and in this respect it is more fortunate than many. None the less the health of the inhabitants

must be safeguarded and no effort spared to eliminate risks. For Public Health Practice, or Preventive Medicine, is to a large extent the elimination of risks—risks which often seem remote but are nevertheless real.

Much of this Report is the work of your Sanitary Inspector, Mr. W. L. Thompson, who carries out most of the work of the Health Department and to whom I am indebted for his willing and able help at all times. I am likewise indebted to your other officers for their ever ready help, especially to the Surveyor, Mr. Carmichael, whose work interlocks with mine and whose co-operation I have so readily obtained. I acknowledge here my indebtedness to him for some of the information contained in this Report which belongs to work under his control.

Lastly, Gentlemen, I have to thank you for the way in which you have received me and the courtesy you have shown in our work together.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

WM. B. WATSON.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area of District	3,501 acres
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population, mid-1937	20,970
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1937) ...	6,689
Rateable value	£185,829
Product of penny rate per annum	£728
Density of population	6 persons per acre
Persons per family at census 1931	3.4

West Bridgford, as defined prior to the Review Order of 1934, is fairly closely built, residential in character, and with a good standard of housing and no slums. The annexation of Edwalton and South Wilford approximately trebled the area, adding 2,380 acres much of which is not yet built on although rapidly developing. Many of the houses in these two parishes are rural in type and some are old and worn out.

Any industries carried on are small and employ few hands. I am indebted to the Manager of the Employment Exchange, Castle Boulevard, Nottingham, for a note on the position of West Bridgford as regards unemployment. No separate records are kept for West Bridgford but he says that probably at no time throughout the year were there more than a hundred unemployed over the age of 18 and as a general rule the finding of suitable employment presented no special difficulties.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

	Total	M.	F.
Live Births—Legitimate	205	102	103
„ „ Illegitimate	Nil		
Birth Rate (per 1000 population) 9.8 (Eng. & Wales 14.9)			
	Total	M.	F.
Stillbirths	8	2	6
Stillbirth Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births			37.5
„ „ (per 1000 population)			0.38
			(England and Wales 0.60)
	Total	M.	F.
Deaths	261	133	128
Death Rate (per 1000 population) 12.4 (Eng. & Wales 12.4)			
Deaths from puerperal causes	Nil		

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1000 live births	34
(England and Wales 58)	
Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births	34
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births	Nil
Deaths from Cancer	44
„ „ Measles	1
„ „ Whooping Cough	Nil
„ „ Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age)	Nil

The following table presents for comparison some of the Vital Statistics of the District and of the Country as a whole for the past 10 years.

Live Births				Deaths				Infant Mortality	
Year	Total No.	Rate per 1,000 population	England & Wales	Total No.	Crude Rate per 1,000 population	England & Wales	Corrected Rate	Rate per 1,000 Live Births	England & Wales
1928	164	11.1	16.7	146	9.9	11.7	9.1	43	65
1929	182	11.3	16.3	201	12.5	13.4	11.5	44	74
1930	176	10.3	16.3	184	10.8	11.4	9.9	57	60
1931	167	9.3	15.8	226	12.6	12.3	11.6	48	66
1932	168	9.3	15.3	194	10.7	12.0	9.8	41	65
1933	174	9.6	14.4	184	10.1	12.3	9.3	40	64
1934	166	9.0	14.8	178	9.7	11.8	8.9	6	59
1935	198	10.0	14.7	217	11.0	11.7	10.1	50	57
1936	199	9.7	14.8	224	10.9	12.1	10.0	50	59
1937	205	9.8	14.9	261	12.4	12.4	11.4	34	58

The Crude Death Rate is calculated on the number of registered deaths after deducting those of persons normally residing elsewhere and adding those of West Bridgford residents who died outside the District. The Corrected Death Rate is the crude rate multiplied by what is known as a Comparability Factor (in the case of West Bridgford this is 0.92) which is supplied by the Registrar-General. The Corrected Death Rate is more fairly comparable with those of other districts and England and Wales than is the Crude Rate because districts vary in the age and sex distribution of their inhabi-

tants and these variations affect mortality. The Registrar-General, by dissecting the age and sex incidence of the general population and comparing the distribution of these with the local populations throughout the country as revealed at the last Census, is able to calculate a factor which, applied to the Crude Death Rate, will counteract any local difference of the age and sex distribution from that of the Country as a whole. The factor in use since the last Census in 1931 has been used throughout the above table.

Birth Rate (9.8)

This is almost the same as that of the previous year and is a very low rate. Indeed there were very few places in the Country of a similar population which showed such a low rate in 1936 and in the same year the next lowest rate amongst the Urban Districts in the County was 4.8 per 1,000 higher. But, as in the case of death rates, comparisons are apt to be misleading for the proportion of women of child-bearing age varies in different localities.

It is interesting to note that not since 1928 have the births in West Bridgford exceeded the deaths. Were the town dependent upon "natural increase," instead of growing it would be dwindling away. It is growing, therefore, by the depletion of other districts.

Death Rate (12.4)

This shows an increase of 1.5 on that of the previous year, the increase being distributed over several causes. It is the highest since 1931. Epidemics of influenza are apt to be the cause of increased mortality and in 1937 there were 8 more deaths from this cause than in 1936. Influenza may contribute to increased mortality although not itself registered as the chief cause of death.

Infant Mortality Rate (34).

The Infant Mortality Rate is one of the best indications of the level of health of a community. In small towns too much importance should not be attached to any one annual rate because the small numbers involved make every additional death cause a steep rise in the rate. West Bridgford, however, shows a consistently satisfactory rate and last year's rate is the lowest but one in the last ten years.

Maternal Mortality.

This was nil, which, of course, is highly satisfactory. The Maternal Mortality Rate is the number of women dying from causes connected with pregnancy and parturition per 1,000 births and in the case of a place the size of West Bridgford is best left uncalculated because one such death would give a rate greater than that for the country as a whole, and two would double it.

Population.

Registrar-General's estimate (mid-1937) ... 20,970

Calculated on the number of births (that is, assuming the birth rate to be the same as in 1931) 22,043

Calculated on the number of inhabited houses at 31st December 1937 (6,689), taking the average number of persons per house as 3.4, as ascertained at 1931 Census 22,743

The Registrar-General's estimate is an increase of 370 on that of the previous year.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Laboratory Facilities.

Through arrangement with the County Council, the Nottingham City Laboratory is available for the examination of pathological specimens.

Ambulance Facilities.

The Council possess two motor ambulances which are available for conveyance of non-infectious patients. In infectious cases either the admitting hospital sends an ambulance or the loan of one from Basford is sought.

Nursing in the Home.

The West Bridgford Nursing Association provides two nurses.

Treatment Centres and Clinics.

The County Council provide the following Clinics in West Bridgford :—

1. Child Welfare. — Baptist Church, Melton Road, Monday afternoons and Thursday mornings.
2. Ante-Natal.—Baptist Church, Melton Road, alternate Thursday afternoons.
3. Dental (School).

The County Tuberculosis Dispensary at Ellesmere House, Clarendon Street, Nottingham, is available for West Bridgford residents.

Similar facilities are available in Nottingham for the treatment of Venereal Disease (by the County's arrangement with the City of Nottingham), and orthopædic defects in children.

No School Clinic of a general character is available.

Hospitals.

There are no hospitals in the Urban District. When beds are available the Basford Sanatorium admits cases of diphtheria and scarlet fever.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water.

Almost the whole of the Urban District is supplied with water by the Nottingham Corporation, which obtains its water, in part from its own sandstone wells, and in part from the upper reaches of the river Derwent.

No samples are taken for analysis by the West Bridgford Council, but the supply is known to be of good quality and ample in quantity.

I am indebted to the Nottingham City Water Engineer for the following report on the analysis of a sample taken specially for the purpose from a tap in a house in West Bridgford. It shows a water of good quality and a high degree of purity.

“ This sample contains, per 100.000 parts :—

Total Solids dried at 100°C.	28.80
Suspended matter	Absent
Chlorides as chlorine	1.78
Oxidised Nitrogen as nitrate	0.20
Oxidised Nitrogen as nitrite	Absent
Free Ammonia	Absent
Albuminoid Ammonia	Absent
Temporary Hardness	14.00
Permanent Hardness	6.50
Oxygen absorbed in 3 hours at 80°F.	Nil
pH value	7.70
Appearance	clear and bright
Colour and taste	Normal
Odour	None
Total no. of organisms growing on agar at 37°C in 1 day per c.c.	6
Total no. of organisms growing on agar at 37°C. in 2 days per c.c.	7
Total no. of organisms growing on agar at 21°C. in 3 days per c.c.	12
Bacillus coli	absent in 200c.c.

“ This sample is of good quality.”

There were no important extensions of mains during the year.

There are still some “shallow” wells remaining, where access to mains is not possible. These are always a potential source of trouble and indeed during the year four in South Wilford had to be dealt with following condemnatory reports from the Analyst. Three were closed and one retained for garden use. A subsequent bore-hole to replace one of the wells closed, although given a good report at first, was, later in the year, found to be polluted and chlorination was resorted to as the only possible solution. This illustrates the unreliability of shallow wells and the concern they cause to those responsible for the public health. Most of them are subject to pollution either constantly or intermittently and if there is no outbreak of illness it is only because each well usually supplies only a few people and contamination with specific organisms, such as that causing typhoid fever, does not often occur. Moreover, regular consumers seem to grow accustomed to polluted water and make no complaint.

Drainage and Sewerage.

Work was commenced in the laying of a main sewer from Edwalton to the Council's existing disposal works. When this is completed, all but scattered dwellings and farms will have access to sewers.

The present disposal works require to be extended and brought up to date and at the end of the year the Surveyor had the work of preparing a scheme well in hand.

Rivers and Streams.

During the year 14 inspections were made regarding the Trent, Greyhorn Dyke, Fairham Brook, Bonfleet Drain and various dykes and culverts in the district. A serious pollution of creosote oil in the Greyhorn Dyke was found, due to leakage of storage tanks at certain brick works; this oil pollution has now been stopped.

The surface water culvert which runs through the centre of West Bridgford and takes most of the road water was found to be in a choked and insanitary condition and was cleansed through as far as the Trent.

Complaints were received regarding pollution from piggeries into a stream at Edwalton. Settlement tanks and rough filters have been constructed and the effluent from the piggeries is now satisfactory.

Complaints were received also about the Bonfleet Drain at Wilford, and it was decided to have this open drain piped in with 9in. glazed stone-ware pipes pointed with cement. Two access manholes and an anti-flood valve are now being fitted.

Closet Accommodation.

The sewerage of Edwalton, now in progress, and the demolition or reconditioning of insanitary houses in Wilford and Edwalton, under the consideration of the Council at the end of the year, should mean that in a short time there will be few closets remaining on the conservancy system. During the year two cesspools were abolished and the drains connected to the public sewers.

At the beginning of the year there were 405 waste water closets in existence and a determined attempt has been made to abolish these obsolete and insanitary fittings. Waste water closets cannot be kept clean and free from smell and in most cases the tippers are broken and the drains leaking. Notices were served on every owner to abolish or convert these closets which in every case were additional to a water closet inside the house. At the end of the year 193 had been converted or abolished leaving 212 still to be done.

Pail closets abolished, or converted to w.c.'s ...	13
New pail closets provided	6
Waste water closets converted or abolished ...	193
Conversion assisted financially by the Council	Nil
Additional w.c.'s fitted to existing property ...	78
Water closets repaired	53
Privies abolished	1

In recent years the conversions to water closets have been :

1933	1934	1935	1936	1937
Nil	Nil	15	20	290

At the close of the year the position as regards the existence of the various types of sanitary convenience in use in the District was as follows, viz. :—

Water Closets	8083
Waste Water Closets	212
Pail Closets (Wilford and Edwalton)	46
Privy (Wilford)	1

There were 16 cesspools.

Public Cleansing.

The existing arrangements are :—

There is regular refuse collection throughout the whole area and this is dealt with as regards approximately 47 per cent., by partial salvage and incineration and as regards the remainder by controlled tipping. In Edwalton pail closets are emptied by the Council. No cesspools are cleansed by the Council.

This represents no change in practice during the year.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

This section includes the Tabular Statement required to be furnished to the Medical Officer of Health by the Sanitary Inspector under Article 27 (18) of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935.

SUMMARY OF WORK DONE BY THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

Details	Inspections	Re-inspections
Housing inspections (Public Health or Housing Acts)	1789	482
Housing inspections (Housing Consolidated Regs.)	189	328
Infectious Diseases	20	3
Vermin and dirt	5	1
Overcrowding	5	6
Water Supply	14	
Petroleum Stores	4	
Factories	2	
Workshops	8	
Workplaces	2	
Outworkers	1	
Bakehouses	12	
Drains	301	
Drains Tested	146	
Smoke Observations	18	
Factories (Smoke Nuisance)	3	
Interviews with Owners, etc.	675	
Stables	12	
Swine, Fowls, and other Animals	16	
Tents, Vans and Sheds	14	
Shops Act, 1934	2	
Tips and plots of waste land, etc.	31	
Sewers, Dykes and Streams	36	
Rat Infested Premises	377	
Miscellaneous visits	239	
Sanitary Accommodation: (Pail closets)	19	
(Privies)	7	
(Dustbins)	20	
(W.W.C.'s)	447	79
(Cesspools)	4	
Houses Disinfected	18	
Cinemas and Restaurants	4	
Slaughterhouses	112	
Meat Shops	55	
Provision and other Food Shops	32	
Fried Fish and Chip Shops	11	
Ice Cream Shops	6	
Dairies and Milkshops	37	
Cowsheds	33	
Milk Samples for Bacteriological Examination ..	16	
Total	4,742	899

Notices, Etc.

Notices served :—

Informal	...	...	...	...	...	1605
Statutory	...	...	...	...	...	45
						<hr/>
Total	...	...				1650

Notices complied with :—

Informal	...	...	...	...	...	1480
Statutory	...	...	...	...	...	44
						<hr/>
Total	...	...				1524

Notices outstanding :—

Informal	...	...	...	...	...	339
Statutory	...	...	...	...	...	12
						<hr/>
Total	...	...				351

Letters and reports sent	...	...	...	...	935
Letters received	...	...	...	...	524
Pamphlets, posters and circulars issued					303
					<hr/>
Total	...	...			1762

Complaints :—

Rat infested premises	...	...	...	350
Choked drains	.....	...	...	70
Refuse, etc.	...	...	...	47
Defects	...	...	...	74
Other matters	...	...	...	25
Smoke nuisance	...	...	...	10
				<hr/>
Total	...	...		576

SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS EFFECTED

The following detailed statement shows the number of Sanitary defects and nuisances remedied as a result of service of notices:—

(a) Dwelling Houses

Roofs repaired	22
Plaster of walls and ceilings repaired	35
Eaves gutters and fallpipes repaired	43
Walls repointed or rebuilt, etc.	59
Dampness remedied	30
Floors repaired or renewed	20
Windows repaired, made to open	43
Food stores provided or repaired	2
Firegrates renewed or reset	30
New sinks provided	2
Stone sinks replaced by new ones	8
Washcoppers renewed or repaired	6
Water supplies improved	4
Skirting boards repaired	6
Doors repaired or rehung	14
Chimneys and stacks repaired	40
Dangerous walls rebuilt	2
Hot water apparatus repaired	14
Walls and ceilings cleansed	14
Pointing to doors and windows renewed	30
Additional light provided	1
Additional ventilation provided	1
Hearths repaired	10
Walls over sinks tiled	4
Defective airgrates renewed	6
Coal places repaired or renewed	10
Walls rendered in Pudlow Cement	6
Lead flashings renewed	9
Ridge tiles rebbed in cement	6
Blue-brick damp-proof courses provided	3
Miscellaneous	14

(b) General Nuisances

Smoke nuisances—Contravention of Bye-laws	3
Accumulations of manure removed	8
Accumulations of refuse removed	40
Burning of refuse	15
Water in cellar	4
Waste of water stopped (notification of Nottingham Corporation)	4
Overcrowding abated	2
Dirty houses cleansed	2
Shallow wells abolished	3

(c) Closet and Ashes Accommodation

Pail closets abolished	13
Pail closets converted to water closets	2
New pail closets provided	6
Waste water closets abolished	193
Additional water closets provided	78
Ashpits abolished	7
Dustbins provided in place of ashpits	7
Defective dustbins renewed	614
W C. walls, roofs, fittings repaired	53
Water closets cleansed	3

(d) General

Bakehouses—defects remedied	11
Ice-cream premises—defects remedied	1
Slaughterhouses—defects remedied	1
Stables—defects remedied	2
Fried fish shops—defects remedied	2
Dairies and cowsheds—defects remedied	12
Factories and workshops—defects remedied	4
Shops Act—defects remedied	2

(e) Drainage

Choked drains cleansed	84
Yards repaired or repaved	26
Soft water tanks abolished	3
Inspection chambers provided or repaired	9
Interceptors fixed	2
Sink and lavatory waste pipes renewed	16
Houses redrained	3
House drains repaired	19
New gullies fixed	6
Vent shafts renewed or repaired	2
Fallpipe disconnected from soilpipe	1
House drains disconnected from cesspools or streams and connected to sewer	1
New gully gratings provided	8
Cesspools cleansed	4
Surface water soakaways reconstructed	3
Sewers cleansed	10
Culverts cleansed	4

Rent Restriction Acts.

No Certificates of unfitness were issued.

Shops Act 1934.

Inspections regarding ventilation, temperature, and sanitary conveniences :—

Number of premises inspected	2
„ „ notices served	1
„ „ notices complied with	1
„ „ certificates of exemption	Nil

Works carried out :—

Sanitary conveniences cleansed or repaired ...	1
Washing facilities	1

Smoke Abatement.

Eleven observations were made, totalling five and a half hours. One chimney was found to be creating a nuisance on three occasions. No prosecutions were instituted but engineers and firemen were interviewed and three notices were forwarded.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are no public nor private swimming baths or pools in the District.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

No signs of infestation were discovered in any houses in the District.

Schools.

There are three Elementary Schools and one Secondary School in West Bridgford. In consequence of complaints the sanitary conveniences at two of these were inspected and notices sent for improvement. The necessary work has been carried out at one school but work at the other has been postponed pending extensive alterations to the premises.

No special measures were necessary during the year on account of infectious disease.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There are no offensive trades in the District. Fish-frying is not scheduled as an offensive trade in the Urban District. There are four premises where such work is carried on. During the year 17 inspections were made, and in three premises improvements were carried out as a result. All the shops contain modern equipment and maintain a high standard of cleanliness.

TENTS, VANS AND SHEDS

The control of these erections does not present a major problem in the District but advantage is being taken of the coming into operation of the Public Health Act, 1936, to control by means of licences any regular camps that may be established. At present there is one such camp, of about 50 tents and one or two caravans, and the owner is complying with the demands of the Council in order to qualify for a licence. The camp is kept in good condition.

There are two temporary buildings of an unsatisfactory nature and without proper sanitary conditions. These were under the consideration of the Council at the end of the year.

BAKEHOUSES.

There are 12 bakehouses in the District, 8 of which are factory bakehouses. All are small or medium in size and they are kept satisfactorily. None is of the underground type. Fourteen inspections were made and defects at 3 were remedied.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES

There are no common lodging houses in the District.

HOUSES LET IN LODGINGS.

Bye-laws were made to deal with this class of house in 1936. There are approximately 15 such houses known to the Health Department. In the majority of instances the sanitary arrangements and means of escape in case of fire are unsatisfactory. No action under the bye-laws has yet been taken.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES

The following information is set out as required by Form 572 of the Home Office.

1. Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Premises.	Number of		
	In- spections.	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories (Including Factory Laundries)	14	7	Nil
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries)	8	13	Nil
Workplaces (Other than Outworkers' premises)	72	Nil	Nil
Total	94	20	Nil

2. Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Particulars.	Number of Defects.			No. of Prose- cutions
	Found	Re- medied	Re- ferred to H.M. Inspec.	
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—				
Want of cleanliness	9	9		
Want of ventilation	1	1		
Overcrowding				
Want of drainage of floors ..				
Other nuisances	3	3		
Sanitary accommodation—				
Insufficient				
Unsuitable or defective				
Not separate for sexes				
Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts :—				
Illegal occupation of under- ground bakehouses				
Other offences	18	12		
Total	33	27		

There were no instances of outwork being done in unwholesome premises.

HOUSING

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

By the Local Authority	... ..	Nil
By private enterprise	... ..	170

1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year:—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	1789
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose..	2271
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	51
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose..	116
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	34
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	761

2. Remedy of defects during the year without Service of formal Notices:—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	861*
---	------

* Includes arrears from previous years.

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:—

A—Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs..	11
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—	
(a) by owners	7
(b) by local authority in default of owners..	Nil

B—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	6
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:	
(a) by owners	6
(b) by local authority in default of owners..	Nil

C—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil

D—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil.
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil.

4. Housing Act, 1936, Part IV.—Overcrowding:—

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	6
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	5
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	28
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	2
(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	1
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	6
(d) Number of cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	3

The six cases of overcrowding are to be dealt with by re-housing in 1938. In the Annual Report for 1936 all overcrowding was said to have been abated, but in 3 instances the condition recurred during 1937, and in 2 the report that it had been abated was premature.

At the end of the year 28 houses in South Wilford and 6 in Edwalton were under consideration by the Council under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936.

A demolition order was in operation on one house at the end of the year.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Supply.

The following is a summary of the particulars as recorded in the register at 31st December, 1937 :—

No. of persons registered as cowkeepers	...	...	7
„ „ premises registered as cowsheds	...	...	10
„ „ cowkeepers who are also retailers of milk			4
„ „ cows on registered premises (approx.)	...		110
„ „ persons registered as retail purveyors of of milk (non-resident)	...	...	21
„ „ persons registered as retail purveyors of milk (non-resident)	...	...	21
„ „ premises registered as dairies	...	...	24
„ „ inspections of dairies by Sanitary In- spectors	...	...	37
„ „ inspections of cowsheds by Sanitary In- spectors	...	...	33

During the year continual efforts were made to improve the quality and cleanliness of the milk supply. The dairies are kept very clean and whitewashed regularly. In two cases repairs were carried out under notice and one new dairy was provided. One dairyman was warned against the practice of bottling cream in the street.

As regards cowsheds, in three cases these are not up to the standard of the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, and efforts were made to have alterations done. The owners have promised to carry out the alterations during 1938.

Licences.

During the year the following licences were granted to sell designated milks within the Urban District :—

Tuberculin Tested, 12. Pasteurised, 3.

There are no producers of designated milk in the District.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION.

Sampling was continued during the year and there was an increase in the number of samples taken, to 13, but in view of the importance of this work a larger number is desirable. The results of analysis are set out in the following table.

Index	Type of Milk	Date	Bacteria per Millilitre	Methylene Blue Test	Bacillus coli (48 hrs. at 37°C.)	Remarks
1	Ordinary Bottled	Feb. 24th	5,280	—	Absent from 1/100 ml. Present in 1/10 ml.	
2	Tuberculin Tested	Feb. 24th	—	Satisfactory	No report	
3	Sample from Churn	April 22nd	162,000	—	Present in 1/100 ml.	
4	Tuberculin Tested	April 22nd	—	Satisfactory	Absent from 1/1000 ml.	
5	Ordinary Bottled	June 2nd	93,120	—	Absent from 1/100 ml. Absent from 1/100 ml.	(3 tubes)
6	Ordinary Bottled	June 2nd	121,920	—	Present in 1/10 ml.	
7	Sample from Churn	May 14th	—	Satisfactory	Absent from 1/10 ml. Absent from 3 tubes of 1/100 ml.	Subjected to same tests as T. T. milk
8	Ordinary Bottled	June 19th	14,880	—	Present in 1/100 ml.	
9	Pasteurised Bottled	June 16th	21,280	—	Absent from 1/1000 ml.	
10	Sample from Churn	June 12th	—	—	Present in 1/100ml. Absent from 1/1000ml.	Biological test negative
11	Tuberculin Tested	Aug. 12th	—	Satisfactory	Absent from 1/100 ml.	(3 tubes)
12	Ordinary Bottled	Aug. 19th	30,700	—	Absent from 1/10 ml.	
13	Ordinary Bottled	Aug. 19th	8,000	—	Absent from 1/10 ml.	

There is no bacteriological standard for ordinary milk. The requirements in the case of "T. T." milk are that it shall pass the methylene blue reduction test (now substituted for the count of total bacteria) and that coliform bacilli shall be absent from 1/100 millilitre. The limit of the bacterial count for pasteurised milk is 100,000 per millilitre. Commonly the standard for accredited milk is used in judging ordinary milk. It is one which should be easily attained with reasonable care—not more than 200,000 bacteria per millilitre and absence of the coliform bacillus from 1/100 millilitre.

The problem of providing a clean, wholesome, safe milk continues to engage the attention of our legislators and their advisers and, as I pointed out in my introductory remarks to this Report, fresh legislation is promised this year. Briefly and broadly put, the rival views are, on the one hand that efforts should be concentrated on improving the health of the cows and producing a milk as clean as possible; and, on the other hand, that pasteurisation is the only safe measure of protection for the consumer, at least where any milk short of the tuberculin tested grade is concerned. The latter school of opinion holds that improvements in the herds and in the methods of production can go on while pasteurisation is carried out, while the opponents of pasteurisation contend that pasteurisation will result in the sterilisation of efforts to produce clean milk.

Medical Officers of Health look at the problem from the point of view of the consumer, knowing from the many disasters that have happened in the past what risks the public run. Indeed no Medical Officer can feel happy about the milk supply in his area unless it is efficiently pasteurised, for he knows, not only how much milk is sold infected with tubercle bacilli but how easy it is for other infections to gain entrance and scatter disease widespread, especially since bulking has become so common. It must be remembered that over 90 per cent. of London's milk has been pasteurised for many years now.

There is much confusion about the various grades of milk. Simply put, these are at present :—

1.—Milk untreated by heat. (a) Tuberculin Tested ("T. T."). The highest grade. Milk from cows which are regularly tested to ensure freedom from tuberculosis and produced under special conditions to ensure cleanli-

ness. Producers who formerly produced "Certified" milk continue to use the term, coupled to "T. T.," if their conditions of production remain the same (principally bottling at the place of production).

(b) **Accredited.** From herds subject to regular veterinary inspection and produced under conditions conforming to a defined standard and under the supervision of the licensing authority.

(c) **Ordinary.** This, of course, is not a designated milk. Its degree of cleanliness varies greatly according to the conditions obtaining at the cowsheds and dairies.

2.—**Milk treated by heat.** (a) **Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised).** This is 1 (a) treated by pasteurisation.

(b) **Ordinary pasteurised.** This is the common pasteurised milk. Most pasteurisers insist on a reasonable standard of cleanliness in the milk before pasteurisation.

The confusion of the public is added to by some dealers introducing such terms as 'Nursery Milk' to describe their products. These are not official designated milks.

TUBERCULOSIS ORDER, 1925

This Order, during the period under review, was administered by the County Council, whose Veterinary Officers carried out routine inspections at the seven cowsheds in West Bridgford. As a result of these inspections, the Chief Veterinary Officer states, 9 cows were slaughtered, 2 on account of tuberculosis of the udder, and 7 on account of chronic cough.

The veterinary work under the Order will henceforth be carried out by the officers of the Ministry of Agriculture.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

Slaughter Houses.

No. of men licensed to slaughter	...	...	...	3
,, , slaughter-houses	...	...	...	2
,, , inspections of slaughter-houses	...	...	...	112

The premises have been kept in good condition.

Practically all the meat sold in the 17 shops in West Bridgford is killed outside the District.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle exclud- ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	127	Nil	37	432	57
Number inspected	127	Nil	37	430	57
All diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole carcasses con- demned	—	—	1	—	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	10	—	—	2	4
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	8	—	—	1/2	7
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcasses con- demned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	6	—	—	2	3
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with tuberculosis	5	—	—	1/2	5

Total weight of meat condemned as a result of these inspec-
tions—401 lbs.

No inspections of animals were made prior to slaughter.

Inspection of Meat on Retail Sale.

Total number of inspections of shops, stalls, vehicles or
places where meat is retailed... .. 55

No unsatisfactory conditions were found.

Unsound meat condemned :—

Description	Reason of Condemnation	Weight in lbs.
One beast tongue	Decomposed	
Loin fat	Decomposed	24
Pig's head	Tuberculosis	
Boiled beef	Decomposed	70

FOOD AND DRUGS ADULTERATION

I am indebted to the County Council's Chief Inspector under the Food and Drugs Act for the information that during the year 11 samples of food (other than milk) and drugs were taken in West Bridgford and all proved genuine on analysis. Of milk samples examined for adulteration, 45 proved genuine and 2 not, one containing 2 per cent. and the other 7 per cent. of added water. The vendors were cautioned.

RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT, 1919

Rat infestation is prevalent in the district and a good deal of attention has been given to the matter. Publicity by means of posters, a lantern slide at the cinema, and a notice in the local paper was obtained. Leaflets were sent to occupiers of food premises, etc., and to cowkeepers and stable owners. The Council's ratcatcher was engaged whole-time during rat week. During that week he destroyed 271 rats. This man is employed part-time throughout the year. By arrangement with the Surveyor, two men were engaged for two weeks gassing rats with the machine.

Figures for the Year.

Complaints investigated	...	...	...	...	289
Visits to premises by rat catcher	...	...			400
Visits to premises by Sanitary Inspector	...				370
Rat baits laid (red squill)	...	...	...	...	5350
Rats killed by rat catcher	...	...	...	...	567
Rats killed by gassing	...	...	...	...	250
					} 817
Applicants for poison	...	...	...	...	80

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

The incidence of the notifiable infectious diseases showed no great change from the previous year with the exception of Scarlet Fever which was less prevalent (19 cases compared with 48).

Probably both the "gravis" and "mitis" types of Diphtheria were represented in those notified. It is certain that most of the cases were mild, but the one fatal case, judging by the information available, may have been of the severe type. However, delay in seeking medical aid may have contributed to the unhappy issue. The "gravis" type is known to have occurred in neighbouring districts.

It is pleasing to record a readiness on the part of medical practitioners to give a precautionary dose of anti-toxin. If this precaution could only be coupled with a greater willingness on the part of parents to call in the doctor early, the mortality from diphtheria would be greatly reduced. It is a matter of expense and is not confined to Diphtheria.

West Bridgford shared in a small degree the incidence of Dysentery which was Nation-wide in the last quarter of the year.

The difficulty in securing hospital accommodation for cases of infectious disease is ever-present. It would appear as if one or other (or several) of the Authorities sharing the available accommodation had always a sufficient number of cases to take up the beds. Under the circumstances the home nursing of Scarlet Fever cases is the rule and only in those cases where the circumstances are exceptional is hospital accommodation sought—often without success. As regards Diphtheria, a genuine clinical case cannot be treated in the average home with an easy mind. It is good to know that a hospital sufficient for the needs of this and other areas, and which can provide for a full range of infectious diseases, notifiable and non-notifiable, is in prospect, but until it materialises those who know the possibilities must have an anxious mind.

The following table shows the incidence, etc., of the notifiable diseases during the year.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Smallpox	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	19	1	—
Diphtheria	7	2	1
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	1	—	—
Puerperal Fever	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—
Pneumonia	12	Unknown	11*
Erysipelas	2	—	—
Dysentery	2	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	1	—†	1

* Includes all deaths registered as being due to any form of Pneumonia.

† Notified from a General Hospital.

ANALYSIS OF NOTIFIED CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE ACCORDING TO AGE GROUPS

[illegible]

TUBERCULOSIS

The following table is set out in the form prescribed by the Ministry of Health :—

Age Period	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
1—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—	—	2	—	1	—	1	—	2
15—	—	2	—	1	1	—	—	1
25—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
45—	1	—	1	—	1	—	1	—
55—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 & up	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Totals ..	4	6	1	3	4	2	1	4

Three out of eleven of the deaths (approximately 27 per cent.) were of persons not previously notified as suffering from the disease. Where there is no obvious reason for the failure to notify, a letter of inquiry is sent to the practitioner certifying the death. A longer period of observation is required before an opinion on the efficiency of notification in the area can be given.

At the end of the year there were 64 names on the register as compared with 73 at the end of the previous year.

Incidence rate, all forms ... 0.67 per 1000 population
(Eng. and Wales 1.45)

Death rate, all forms ... 0.52 per 1000 population
(Eng. and Wales 0.69)

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